AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YO-GENDRA MAKWANA); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Recommendations of '-he Committee relate to the revision of the pay scales of the scientists working in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research system and other connected matters. The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Estimated rice production during current year

111. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLA-HABADI ABDI; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated production of rice during the current year;

(b) whether there is likely to be any shortfall in rice production; if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to import rice to meet the shortage; and

(d) if so, the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YO-GENDRA MAKWANA); (a) and (b) Due to widespread drought conditions prevailing in some of the principal rice producing States as well as floods in some States in the Eastern region, production of rice during 1987-88 is expected to. decline. Firm estimates of rice production are not yet due from the States and as such, it is too early to assess the shortfall in rice production.

(c) and (d) Food situation in the country 5s constantly under review and the Government keeps open the option to import rice, as and when considered necessary.

Revenue earned through Advertisements in Doordarshan

112. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of IN-FORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amountof revenue earned by the Doordarshanthrough advertisement sofar during the current year; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PAN-JA); (a) Doordarshan earned a gross revenue of Rs. 66.86 crores during the period April to September, 1987 through advertisements and sponsored programmes .

(b) The steps takenlbeing taken to increase the revenue include;

(i) Revision of rate structure of commercial telecast with effect from 1st March, 1987;

(ii) Special sales promotion efforts to book ad$_s$ for telecast along with the coverage Of Reliance Cup 1987;

(iii) Augmentation of staff and faci-lities at Doordarshan Commercial Service Headquarters and at Kendras for sales promotion.

Steel Prices

113. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAKM

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL is pressing for a fresh price hike of steel;

(b) whether joint Plant Committee has recommended 12.5 per cent increase in steel price and the SAIL Chairman is justifying the same;

(c) whether steel price in India is 250 per cent higher as compared to international price;